

Appl. No. 09/920,404
Amdt. dated 07/07/2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 6 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to the TITLE and the ABSTRACT of the Application. Further, the Examiner rejected Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 - 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka.

In response to the objection to the TITLE, Applicant has changed the TITLE of the Application to POSITIONING AND SIZING A WINDOW ON A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE. Further, Applicant has provided a new ABSTRACT to replace the ABSTRACT that has been technically rejected.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to overcome the 102 rejection made thereto. Further, Claims 2 - 5 have been canceled. Hence, the 101 rejection of Claims 4 and 5 are deemed moot. Note that new Claims 7 - 24 have been added for consideration. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicant submits that the claims in the Application are allowable over the applied reference. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As stated in the SPECIFICATION, when several applications (e.g., windows) are opened simultaneously on a graphical user interface (GUI) of a desktop, the GUI may assume a cluttered appearance. Some of the windows can overlay other windows or other graphical elements, such as icons, which are displayed on the GUI. Therefore, the user

GB920000088US1

Appl. No. 09/920,404
Amdt. dated 07/07/2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2004

needs to move the foreground windows to operate on hidden elements.

There are different techniques that have been used to manually arrange windows on a GUI to diminish the likelihood that needed elements of certain windows may be hidden behind other windows. Most of these techniques, however, include changing the location of existing objects (i.e., icons) on the GUI. This may be rather annoying to certain users who have come to rely on the usual location of these objects on the GUI. Thus, it would be desirable for a user to select the position and dimensions of a new window to be opened on the GUI.

The present invention provides a method of allowing a user to position and to choose the size of a window on a GUI. When a new window is to be opened, the user may select a target area on the GUI where to open the window. To do so, the user needs to select a first corner of the target area by placing a pointing device to a first location on the GUI. After doing so, the user may drag the pointing device from the selected first location to a second location on the GUI to select a second corner of the target area. Once these two corners have been selected, the window may be opened within the target area. Since the new window will be opened within the target area, the size of the target area will determine the size of the newly opened window.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 17 is illustrative.

GB920000088US1

Appl. No. 09/920,404
Amdt. dated 07/07/2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2004

17. A method of positioning and sizing a window on a graphical user interface (GUI) comprising the steps of:

determining a target area on the GUI where to open the window, the step of determining including **enabling a user to select a first corner of the target area by placing a pointing device to a first location on the GUI and to drag the pointing device from the selected first location to a second location on the GUI, the second location being a second corner of the target area;** and

enabling the user to open the window on the GUI. (Emphasis added.)

New Claim 17 is not anticipated by Tanaka. Tanaka purports to teach an information processing apparatus for controlling window positions. According to the teachings of Tanaka, when a user desires to open a new window at a particular location, the user needs to select an icon with a pen. To select the icon, the user must place the pen on the icon. This is referred to as "pen down". While the pen is on the icon, the user may drag the pen to a location that is outside the icon area. When that is done, an outline of the new window will appear where the window is to be situated. As the user continues to drag the pen, the outline of the window will change position. When the user is satisfied with the location of the new window as shown by the outline, the user may then lift the pen (referred to as pen up) off the icon. Once the pen is lifted off the icon, the new window will be opened at the location of the outline.

Accordingly, Tanaka does not teach, show or suggest positioning and sizing a window on a GUI as claimed.
GB920000088US1

Appl. No. 09/920,404
Amdt. dated 07/07/2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2004

Rather, Tanaka merely teaches positioning a window on a GUI; the size of the window is however preset.

According to the teachings of Tanaka, therefore, a desktop that has a plurality of windows opened thereon may still be quite cluttered since the user may not be able to size new windows in accordance to the space available on the GUI. By contrast, the present invention ***enables a user to select a first corner of a target area by placing a pointing device to a first location on the GUI and to drag the pointing device from the selected first location to a second location on the GUI to select a second corner of the target area.*** After selecting the two corners of the target area, the new window is opened withi the target area. Hence, the size of the newly opened window is determined by the target area.

Applicant therefore submits that Claim 17 is allowable. The other independent claims, which all incorporate the emboldened-italicized limitations in the claim reproduced above as well as their dependent claims should also be allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are once more respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Berardino Salvatore

By: 

Volel Emile
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,969
(512) 306-7969

GB920000088US1

Page 14 of 14